

Plan to succeed



We wanted to keep the day low-key and family-focused

I said no. His mum: “Well, you may have been married once before, but our son hasn’t and he wants it to be special.” Him: MUTE(!) Me: “If we book Danesfield House, we’ll only have a few metres to walk from the ceremony to the reception.”

THE DRESS: SOMETHING OLD OR SOMETHING NEW?

Never wear the same wedding dress twice. That’s just weird. OK, I admit I thought about it. Guilt was hanging about with the two wedding dresses I already owned (totalling £1700 – eek!). Accept that you must buy a new dress, and that you deserve one. I ordered a range of wedding and prom dresses



WHAT TO WEAR

This is your chance to ditch tradition (if you want to that is!), or wear that dress you wish you’d gone for the first time around



(that I could wear again) from Asos, Net-a-Porter, BHLDN and Monsoon. I finally settled on a cream '20s-style pearl-covered silk dress reduced from £800 to £200 from Monsoon.

REUSE THE RINGS?

So, old dress, no. But you do have permission to reuse those rocks. Don’t think twice about melting down your old platinum band and diamond engagement ring and reworking them into a new design for either your wedding ring, your engagement ring or both. You’ll never even come close to earning the original price when selling on, but as raw materials they hold value. Seek out a jewellery studio and go ahead and enjoy the design process. We used Studio 35 and spent £400 to rework my old engagement ring and band (originally £2200).

SHOULD YOU ASK FOR GIFTS?

My advice would be that if you’d like a gift list, don’t hold back. Otherwise, guests will just presume it’s at their own discretion. And by not declaring it, you leave yourself open to all kinds of odd reactions. For example, I have a friend of a friend whose in-laws swiftly shut down the gifting option as soon as the engagement was announced with: “Well, obviously you won’t be asking for gifts this time as you were given wedding presents before.” I mean, really, don’t they realise that the NutriBullet and Fearne Cotton Smeg mixer didn’t even exist when you married the first time around?